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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/025,256	12/19/2001	Bret S. Weber	01-674	5721

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EXAMINER

SORRELL, ERON J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2182

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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05/15/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/025,256

Applicant(s)

WEBER ET AL.

Examiner

Eron J. Sorrell

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 November 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 19 December 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 11/17/06 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being clearly anticipated by Hanan (U.S. Patent No. 6,898,730).

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Referring to apparatus claims 1,2,10,17,18 and 23, Hanan teaches an apparatus for dual porting a serial advanced technology attachment disk drive (see item 100 in figure 1A)) for utilization in fibre channel based communication (see lines 10-17 of column 3), comprising:

a first idle regenerator (item 110 in figure 1A)) connected to a first serial master device (item 106 in figure 1A), the first idle regenerator being configured to receiving and transmitting signals to the first serial master device via a first input/output (I/O) connection, the signals including an idle character stream (see lines 28-53 of column 4, note the "heartbeat packet" is being construed as the "idle character stream";

a second idle regenerator (item 112 in figure 1A) connected to a second serial master device (item 108 in figure 1A), the second idle regenerator being configured to receiving and transmitting signals to the second serial master device via a second input/output (I/O) connection, the signal including an idle character stream (see lines 28-53 of column 4);

a third idle regenerator (see item 116 in figure 1A) connected to the serial disk drive and the first and second idle regenerators, wherein the third idle regenerator is configured to communicating with the serial disk drive and the first and

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second idle regenerators (see paragraph bridging columns 3 and 4);

a synchronization logic (see item 114 in figure 1A) configured to synchronizing data transfers between one of the first idle regenerator and the second idle regenerator, and the third idle generator, wherein the synchronization logic is connected to the first, the second and the third idle regenerators (see lines 48-64 of column 3); and an auto detector connected to the first and the second idle regenerators (28-41 of column 4), wherein the auto detector is configured to controlling data transfers to the first and the second idle regenerators based on the presence of idle characters from the first and the second serial master devices (see lines 28-54 of column 4).

4. Referring to apparatus claims 3,4,12,19 and 24, Hanan teaches the auto detector is configured to switching between the first and the second serial masters and enables communication with a single serial master at a time. (see lines 28-54 of column 4).

5. Referring to claims 5,11,20 Hanan teaches the dual porting apparatus is suitable for utilization with a serial advanced

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technology attachment disk drive (see lines 30-47 of column 3).

6. Referring to claims 6,13, and 21, Hanan the dual porting apparatus is suitable for utilization with fibre channel based communication (see lines 2-17 of column 3).

7. Referring to claims 7 and 14, Hanan teaches the synchronization logic is configured to providing synchronization for idle character switching (see lines 48-64 of column 3).

8. Referring to claims 8,15,22 and 25, Hanan teaches the dual porting apparatus is embodied in an application specific integrated circuit (see lines 22-38 of column 5).

9. Referring to claims 9,16, and 26, Hanan the dual porting apparatus is integrated with the serial disk drive (see lines 22-38 of column 5).

Response to Arguments

10. Applicant's arguments filed 11/17/06 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The applicant argues:

1) The prior art fails to teach the newly amended limitation of the first and second idle regenerators receiving

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and transmitting signals to first and second serial master devices via respective first and second I/O connections (see first full paragraph of page 10 of applicant's remarks.

As per argument 1, the Examiner disagrees. **Hanan clearly teaches the above limitation** (emphasis added). Figure 1A shows first and second idle regenerators (items 110 and 112) coupled to the first and second serial master devices (106 and 108) via separate busses (not labeled). These busses are the I/O connections.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eron J. Sorrell whose telephone number is 571 272-4160. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:00AM - 4:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim Huynh can be reached on 571-272-4147. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

EJS
May 11, 2007



KIM HUYNH
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

5/11/07